



# THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER

## AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 13, 2017

### Attendance

Present: Alan Ehrenholz (President), Alim Lakhiyalov (VP Finance), Pooja Bhatti (VP Administration), Sally Lin (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Kelsi Wall (Policy Advisor), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Regrets: Daniel Lam (VP Academic), Marium Hamid (Student Services Manager)

Guest: Max Holmes (AVP Academic)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am (Sally Standard Time).

### Agenda

- The agenda was approved (Alim, Sally).

### Minutes

- The minutes of June 6 were approved (Sally, Pooja).
- It was noted that Councillors seem to be reading the minutes: at last Council meeting, there were questions about the party bus (mentioned in Exec minutes).
- It was suggested that there be less printing out of copies of agendas and minutes.

### Academic Experience Survey

Max:

- High participation rate: 2,484 response in only three weeks. Included grad student responses for first time.
- Only 16% of respondents identified as being involved in the AMS.
- Approval rating for AMS 6.1 out of 10. Room for improvement. Maybe aim for 7.
- Need Communications to publicize our achievements more.
- 31% said the AMS does a good job representing students academically, which is up from previous years.
- But only 24% say the AMS is good at representing students' financial interests to UBC.
- And only 27% think we're spending their money wisely (though 44% of grad students thought we were).

- Except for the U-Pass fee and the new Athletics and Recreation fee, most did not know what AMS fees were being used for (86% know what the U-Pass fee is for; 54% know about the Athletics and Recreation fee).
- 79% of students say they want to be contacted by email; so the email newsletter should get effort put into it.
- 55% say they want to be contacted by social media.
- Despite UBC's publicity about the Thunderbirds lately, only 17% say they feel connected to the Thunderbird athletic teams.
- People feel more safe on campus (63% say so).
- The sense of belonging has remained the same for three years (56%).
- Will be presenting results to Council on June 28 and soliciting opinions from Councillors and Executives to produce a draft report, with a final report being presented July 19, with recommendations.
- When Executives review their goals in the fall, they should address the recommendations.
- A policy is needed about the survey to make sure questions are not changed from year to year without following procedures: this is to ensure we get data that allows year-to-year comparisons.
- Only three Constituencies (LFS, AUS, EUS) submitted questions to be asked on the survey. It's important that Constituencies take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions.

### *Questions*

- Discussion about whether to run the survey during AMS elections: too much clutter or would it produce more responses?
- Max: Election time is the time people are most involved in the AMS.

### **Working Groups**

- Alan:
  - Using Working Groups a lot more.
  - Need clarity about them.
  - There are caucuses, sub-committees, the Blue and Gold Society ...
- Sally: Is there some consistent procedure for appointments to these groups? Last year the Advocacy Committee appointed people to its caucuses (Student Issues, Equity), but how do the other groups work?
- Alan:
  - Who should be on these working groups? If it's only hired staff, then these are not really working groups or sub-committees, are they? Just staff meetings.
  - Operations Committee and Finance Committee have policy books, but those are not Council policies. They're really operating manuals.
- Alim:
  - There's a Finance Policy Guide, but it's to be used internally.

- Our IT Committee (a sub-committee of Finance) is half staff.
- Alan:
  - The groups should produce minutes.
  - And should they have a Councillor or an at large member on them?
- Alim:
  - All the Finance working groups have at large members, but their purpose is to be able to meet efficiently.
  - The Finance Committee working groups are drawn from the Finance Committee, so all their members are chosen by Council.
- Alan: The Advocacy groups are chosen differently.
- Alim: Problem if have to wait for at large members to be appointed.
- Alan: Maybe we need a document listing all the working groups, describing their composition, duties, etc. Presented to Council, but not for approval.
- Max: We seem to have different types of working groups:
  - There's the Student Issues caucus and the Equity caucus under the Advocacy Committee. Also the Blue and Gold Society under the Student Life Committee.
  - They're representing people and doing advocacy, and they're all students at large.
  - The others (under the Finance Committee and the Operations Committee) are more staff-based.
  - These two types of working group are doing different things but are called the same.
- Alan:
  - We have flexibility and thus varying types of working groups.
  - This was a good beginning discussion. We should discuss further.

### Updates

- Alan: Working to set up regular biweekly meetings with the GSS.
- Alim: The Executives have received credit cards.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am (Sally Standard Time).